incidents of dowry deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the number of newly-wed women who have been killed in the Capital and in the Union Territories during the last one year; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to save the lives of newly-wed women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As per available information the number of cases registered as dowry deaths during the years 1986 and 1987 was 1319 and 1418 respectively.

(b) 10 cases of murder for dowry were reported in Delhi and one in Chandigarh during the year, 1987.

(c) The registration, investigation and prevention of crimes fall within the purview of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 has been amended to make the law regarding offences against women stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have also been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women.

Minerals export policy

*117. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any minerals export policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) The Export Licensing Policy for the period April 1988—March 1991 for various commodities, including minerals, is expected to be announced in April, 1988.

Withdrawal of import duty on waste paper

*118. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Small Paper Mills Association has recently urged the Central Government to withdraw the 10 per cent import duty on waste paper and sought complete excise exemption for small paper mills for the initial production of 7500 tonnes in view of the severe financial crisis being faced by these units;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 80 out of a total of 270 such units have been closed down and that 60 per cent of the remaining units are on the verge of closure; and

(c) if so, what is Government reaction thereto and what relief measures are proposed to be taken to save the small paper mills from financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the available information as on the 1st January, 1988, out of 295 units in the country engaged in the production of paper and paperboard 67 units have not been reporting production for the last two years. A majority of these units are in the small scale sector.

(c) The matter is under examination for appropriate action.

Plying of cycle rickshaws in the walled city

119. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to prohibit the plying of cycle rickshaws within the walled city of Delhi and to replace it by three wheelers; and

(b) if so, by when such a scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand for grant of statehood to Delhi

*120. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing demand for granting Statehood to Delhi from the political parties and the public; and

(b) if so, what is Governments reaction in regard to granting Statehood to Delhi in view of granting Statehood to various Union Territories during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The demand for grant of State hood to Delhi is voiced by political parties from time to time.

(b) The Sarkaria Committee has been set up to consider and make recommendations for re-organising and rationalising the administrative and municipal set up of Delhi. However, there is no proposal under consideration to grant Statehood to Delhi.

बिस्किट, केक और पेस्ट्रीज पर उत्पाद शुल्क

748. **श्री मौर्जा इर्शादबेग** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिस्किट पर कितने और कौन से करों से सरकार को कितना राजस्व प्राप्त होता है;

(ख) केक तथा पेस्ट्रीज पर उत्पाद शुल्क की दर क्या है और इससे कितना राजस्व प्राप्त होता है; और

(ग) क्या बिस्किट के भावों में कमी लाने की कोई योजना है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राजस्व विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत पांजा) : (क) बिस्कुटों पर मूल्यानुसार 10% की दर से मूल उत्पादन शुल्क उद्ग्रहणीय होता है। वर्ष 1987–88 के लिए इस जिन्स से राजस्व वसूली का अनुमान लगभग 18 करोड़ रुपए है।

(ख) केक तथा पेस्ट्री पर उत्पादन शुल्क से छूट है।

(ग) बिस्कुटों पर कोई मूल्य नियंत्रण नहीं है। बिस्कुटों पर उत्पादन शुल्क भार अधिक नहीं है। बिस्कुटों के निर्माताओं को औसतन 4%की सीमा तक मॉडवेट का लाभ उपलब्ध है। इसके अलावा, छोटे निर्माताओं को एक वर्ष में 15 लाख रुपए तक की निकासियों के सम्बन्ध में उत्पादन शुल्क से पूर्ण छूट प्राप्त है और इसके बाद 60 लाख रुपए की निकासियों पर उन्हें केवल मूल्यानुसार 5% की दर से शुल्क अदा करना होता है। इस प्रकार, बिस्कुटों की कीमतों पर उत्पादन शुल्क भार अत्यन्त मामूली है।

Centrally sponsored irrigation projects completed during the last three years

749. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally sponsored irrigation projects completed during the last three years, Statewise; and

(b) the number of projects abandoned during the above period, statewise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA